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THE BURMA NEWS

NOVEMBER, 1932

FROM THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS IN BURMA AND ASSAM

THE
BURMA NEWS

H. W. SMITH, *Editor.*

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The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

Signs are not wanting, in fact they are most apparent that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

There probably never was a time when so many fine books pertaining to spiritual reality have been published as during the past few years. Last year many were thrilled with Hugh Redwood's book "God in the Slums." Hugh Redwood was night editor of one of the leading London papers and in the course of his peregrinations at the time of the Thames flood, came across the fine rescue work of the Salvation Army. This led him to investigate the work further. In the course of this investigation he was captured by the irresistible appeal of changing lives and conditions in the slums and his book "God in the Slums" is a record of present day miracles in darkest London. Now his secret is out and in "God in the Shadows" published this year, we learn that God has been just in the shadows of his life all along, calling him in many diverse ways but always insistently to follow Him.

A few years ago the British public was fascinated with a series of articles on "My Religion" which appeared in one of the leading papers creating such a demand that Arnold Bennett the first contributor found the paper sold out at an early hour and was unable to secure a copy. Now that secret is out too, for in a book just off the Press "For Sinners Only" A. J. Russell says that the series "My Religion" was a God-given inspiration which came to him one day when working in his garden. This book is about the Oxford Groups which have figured so largely in creating a new attitude towards the Kingdom of Heaven seen in many lands to-day. A. J. Russell set out to investigate this movement and was himself first intrigued and then captured by it and he is now one of its warmest supporters.

Another book which has proved to be a best seller in England is C. F. Andrew's "What I Owe to Christ" a thrilling and fascinating presentation of the inescapable fact of Christ in his life and indeed in all life.

These and other important signs indicate a revival of interest in religion such as has probably not occurred since the Wesley revival. A. J. Russell towards the end of his book says; "All round the earth there are bursts of Holy Spirit flame. The new world revival is surely at hand and coming to us in the same way that Christianity first burst on a pagan world when spirit-filled men, accused of being filled with new wine, went everywhere witnessing to their experience of a Risen Lord."

Nearly two thousand years ago a rough prophet from the wilderness proclaimed the great message—Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. The Kingdom was realised

shortly after when the same prophet said:—"Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

Who can doubt amid all these portents that "The Kingdom" draws nigh again.

W. B. H.

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Bhamo Workers' Bible Study Class

We had a most remarkable Bible study class this year. I was told that this was the largest class that ever attended. On September 15, the classes opened with an attendance of thirty-five men and women from the Kachin hills. The first two weeks we had chiefly preachers, evangelists, Bible women and elders from the villages; from October 1, came the teachers and their assistants from the village schools; soon our number ran up to one hundred and twenty-three when the daily roll was called.

As we did not wish to use mission money, nearby Christian villages were asked to make contributions in rice and those who came were asked to make a small contribution in cash for the daily bazaaring: in this way all were well fed with very little cost.

Five periods a day were given to study. Some weeks before an outline of the studies was made on a mimeograph and handed to the leaders who were asked to prepare for each study. Of course, even the teachers learned some things which will help them in the future. There is great rejoicing among the Kachins that they now have the Bible in their own language, but they were also told that it will be of no use to them, both teachers and preachers, unless they daily study it and make it part of their lives.

The evenings were given to a round-table discussion and devotional talks or recalling past history of some of the pioneers of the kingdom of God in Upper Burma, such as Doctors Kinkaid, Rose and Cushing and the first missionaries to the Kachins, like Lyon and Roberts, and the translation of the Bible by Dr. Hanson.

While all rejoiced in the great progress this mission had made, yet it was a revelation to many to learn that they had occupied only about two-thirds of this district though where they had sowed the seed a harvest always followed.

Kachins are liberal givers and yet for several years, contributions before the financial depression were yearly diminishing. When inquiring into the causes it was found that frequent changes in local treasurers with no balance on hand, the lending of collections with few returns of the money so lent, the diversion of these collections for other purposes than those for which they had been given, were some of the leading causes. It was decided that each small group was in future to send in directly to the central treasurer at the end of each month and to ask for a receipt to show to the local church that the actual amount was handed over.

It was learned that quite a number of small groups had had no opportunity to celebrate the Lord's supper for a year or more. The older pastors were unable to make the rounds, so the churches decided to ordain four of their tried and trusted men, two of them Karens who have been with the Kachins for over ten years and two Kachins one of whom is M. Robbin who is a retired Deputy Inspector of Schools.

It would be strange if with the acceptance of Christianity some of the old customs did not creep in the churches; some of them are quite harmless, others on the other hand are so closely connected with demon worship that if allowed to continue, the new faith would soon be smothered or the new wine would burst the old skins and both be destroyed. These old customs were freely dis-

cussed and in most cases admitted to be harmful to the Christian life and all resolved to instruct their people and lead them in the better way.

They were shown how by clearing the jungle around their villages, digging deep wells, boiling their drinking water and building their houses (so that more of God's clear sunlight could enter) they would do more to fight the evil spirits in whom their heathen neighbours believed than all the sacrifices they had ever made to these evil spirits.

Geo. J. Geis.

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Election Results

The report of the tellers for the annual election of officers for the Burma Baptist Missionary Conference was submitted to the Reference Committee on October 20 and the following were declared duly elected:

President—F. E. Eden.
Vice-President—H. E. Hinton.
Recording Secretary—W. B. Campbell.
Field Secretary—C. E. Chaney.
Reference Committee—
Rangoon-Insein—F. E. Eden.
Rest of Burma—R. Halliday.
Woman's Board—
Upper Burma—Miss F. Peter.
Rangoon-Insein—Miss H. Hunt.
Press Advisory Board—
Full Term—J. R. Andrus.
Unexpired Term—H. I. Marshall.
College Trustees—
Full Term—J. C. Richardson.
Unexpired Term—P. R. Hackett.
Woman's Board—Miss H. F. Shank.

R. J. J.

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"Seek the graces of God with all your strength; but above all the graces that specially belong to heaven. Try hard to be humble, to be free from all conceit, to question your own opinions, to give up your own way, to put simplicity first among all excellences of character, to be ready to think yourself in the wrong, to prefer others to yourself; for this character is nearest to God's heart, and to babes who are of this sort does God reveal His most secret mysteries."

—*Bishop Temple.*

Conventions and Spiritual Achievement

The Burma Baptist Convention at Henzada this month which was held in the new Karen Auditorium gave us the opportunity to see one of the largest, most beautiful and well built school buildings in Burma. The 2,700 people who attended could not help but catch something of the faith and spiritual achievement of the Karens and Mr. and Mrs. Phelps back of it all. The splendid new Burman Girls' School building across the street also was the visible achievement of the work and prayers of years. I could not help but think of the old half-tumbled down house in the side compound as I saw it in 1913 which Dr. Cummings had acquired hoping some day it would become the beautiful girls' school we now saw. We rejoice with Miss Crane over the transformation.

The old mission house seemed deserted without Dr. and Mrs. Cummings to welcome us in it. A number of the Christians spoke of their earnest desire for some missionary soon to be sent to supervise the field which had been without one for six months.

The meetings of the Burman Conference in the Burman Boys' School had a spiritual note of a high order. Above methods, programs and machinery, there was a realization and expression of the fact that the great need for Burma was spiritual and only Christ could satisfy it.

The Convention will be at Pyinmana next year and we will welcome you and are already making plans to fill you with the Pyinmana spirit. We are now starting on the cold season evangelistic campaigns. Our students, teachers and other Christians are enlisting in some half a dozen teams to carry on definite Christian work each week and report what progress we make at the mid-week prayer meeting. At this time we also train for the work ahead.

We are trying to get each Christian to sign and carry out one or more of the following resolutions printed on a pledge card in Burmese:

1. For spiritual nourishment each day to read the Bible, wait and listen for a personal message from God, and pray with a prayer list.
2. Do some sort of personal Christian work at least once a week.
3. Carry on a demonstration of some improved practice which may suggest to one's neighbours a better way of life and work.
4. Report to a group of Christians once a week about one's efforts in these matters.

We would be glad to see other Christian groups also try to extend God's Kingdom in a similar manner. We feel the Spirit is beginning to stir and bless us as we each try to do our part and find the way being prepared before us.

Brayton C. Case.

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London Stopping Place

If any of our people are passing through London, I am sure they will be glad to know of a missionary home there which is glad to take in missionaries. The address is Mrs. Weber, 35 Langdon Park Road, Highgate, N6, London. The 'phone is Mountview 7729.

Mr. and Mrs. Weber were formerly missionaries in India. Mrs. Weber writes that they welcome children in their house, having a daughter of their own 14 years old; and she adds, that if single missionaries are coming through alone and will send word, they will be met and brought to her home.

E. N. Chaney.

"To hide a fault with a lie is to replace a blot by a hole."

—*Marcus Aurelius.*

Annual Bible Class of Bassein Pwo Karen Mission

Our annual Bible Class for the pastors and workers of our association closed on October 10 after an eleven-day session with an enrollment of 134. This is the largest attendance we have ever had. I am glad to report that nearly all were regular in their attendance and remained until the last day of the session. This is a very hopeful sign.

We were glad to have Rev. A. C. Hanna, of Mogok, with us this year. He taught one hour each day, using Kagawa's book, "The Religion of Jesus," as the basis for his lectures. He also taught one hour each day on "The Church." Both courses were very helpful and much enjoyed by the pastors and others in attendance. Many expressed their appreciation of his courses on the last day of the session.

S,ra Shwe Ba, T.P.S., M.L.C., taught one hour each day on the Christian Life. He had taught this course in Maubin and gave it even more effectively at Bassein. He also led all the morning devotionals, taking prayer as his subject, in which great interest was shown.

I had one hour each day on "Bible Study Methods and Sermonizing." I was very pleased at the great interest shown in these subjects. I had planned for one hour each day on the "Sermon on The Mount," but a whale of a boil on my left cheek prevented my doing so.

The afternoons were given to recreation and sports. The football team from among the visitors beat our High School team twice, also they beat an outside team once, but went down in defeat before our Middle School team which was too strong for them. This team had won The Inter-Middle School Shield here in Bassein this year, not having been defeated.

The evenings were given over to business sessions and special lectures

by S,ra Shwe Ba and Charles Taw, B.A., our headmaster. Mr. Taw took up the problems of the school and a most encouraging report of the school was made.

On Wednesday evening, October 5, Mrs. Conrad and I invited the pastors, workers, and elders to our home and more than 100 responded. The house was crowded, but still we found space to play. An hour and a half was spent in games which brought thunderous roars of laughter and applause. I never enjoyed anything more in my life. To see the elderly men play like children was a real treat. At the close S,ra Shwe Ba gave a short talk on Friendship and the necessity of our people being friends to each other. One of the rural pastors in response spoke with great feeling of the deep impression these social hours had made upon him. Refreshments were served and all returned to their places of rest.

The large attendance this year made it difficult for we had not planned to divide the class. However we will plan for a division and for an increase in the teaching staff for next year. I should not fail to mention the fact that Nan Thein May Gale, of the English Seminary, Insein, rendered valuable service also in many ways. She is one of our own girls of whom we are proud and in whom we place a great deal of hopes.

I consider such Annual Bible Classes to be one of the best pieces of work we do. We use the cyclostyle freely and give our people something to carry home with them. I propose to send out to our pastors, helps in this form from time to time.

It was a great inspiration to me to look into the faces of this large group of pastors and workers, and what a glorious time we did have together.

On Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9, one of our younger pastors was ordained to the Gospel Ministry. The ordination sermon was preached Sunday morning, and the closing service with the laying on of hands, the charge, and the prayer was a most impressive one. At last we have broken the age-long custom among the Karens of ordaining only elderly men to the Gospel Ministry. Sra San Chone is a Seminary graduate and a young man of much promise. He is pastor of a growing church near Kyunpyaw.

Sunday night, October 9, "The Cross" was dramatized by our Gospel Team members, and it was beautifully done. The appeal was tremendous and all of us wanted to take up the Cross anew and bear it to the end, be it heavy or light. There was perfect attention throughout, even though the house was packed with people.

Monday evening the annual concert for the pastors was given to an overflowing house. It was greatly enjoyed by the visitors. The superintendent and headmaster took advantage of the occasion to present medals for scholarship in the high department of the school. Also medals were given to each member of the football team which won for our school the Inter-Middle-School Shield this year. Mrs. Conrad presented these medals to the winners amid great applause.

Mrs. Hanna and little daughter joined her husband on the 11th and remained over until the 14th. I took them on a trip up the Daga in my launch which all seemed to enjoy. I had been in Bible classes for a solid month and was glad for the day of rest on the launch.

C. L. Conrad.

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"Never does a man portray his own character more vividly than in his manner of portraying another."

—*Richter.*

"To weigh other minds by our own is the false scale by which the greater number of us miscalculate all human actions and most human characters."

—*John Oliver Hobbes.*

One-Half Judson Students From A. B. M. Schools

A. B. M. High Schools have furnished almost half the present student body of Judson College—a total of 135 out of 280 students who completed the first term, 1932-1933. The Government high schools, Anglican high schools and Methodist high schools came next in order. The figures are as follows:

A. B. M. Schools ..	135
Government Schools ..	49
Anglican School ..	27
Methodist Schools ..	18
Roman Catholic Schools ..	13
Indian National Schools ..	6
Burmese National Schools ..	5
Wesleyan Schools ..	5
University College ..	4
Intermediate College ..	2
India, Penang and Singapore	16
	280

For purposes of calculation we count on the school last attended. Thus a student who attended three or four different schools before coming to college is counted only for the one from which he passed the H. S. F.

Schools which have sent us six or more students each are as follows:

1. Morton Lane	18
2. Cushing	15
3. Judson Boys'	14
4. Kemmendine	13
5. Karen, Henzada	10
6. Nichols, Bassein ..	9
7. A. B. M. Tharrawaddy ..	8
8. Methodist Boys'	8
9. A. B. M. Girls', Mandalay ..	7
10. Pegu Karen, Rangoon ..	7
11. Government, Insein ..	7
12. Government English, Maymyo	6
13. Government, Thayetmyo ..	6
14. St. Mary's, Rangoon ..	6

In some cases students who come from Government high schools have sought out Judson because of the influence of their A. B. M. middle schools and of their missionaries. Students from Sandoway and Shwegyin are often in Judson for this reason.

The Intermediate College, Mandalay, has apparently attracted all students from Kelly High School who would otherwise have entered Judson College.

J. R. Andrus.

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Bible Courses at Baptist English High School

The Bible Courses of last term attracted much interest on the part of the classes. In the High department we took up, "The Story of Moses." During this course several dramatic episodes were given by groups of students some of which were staged at the Rally Day Programme of Immanuel Church Sunday School. The term examination in this course revealed keen enthusiasm, the top markers being, Alec Hunro, Gladys Dawson, and Thomas Hodgson. The course of study in the Middle Department was based upon, "A Life of Jesus," by Basil Mathews. Much initiative was revealed in the map-drawing contest. The high grades in this course were awarded to Kitty Basak, Terrence Roseboom, and Una McIntosh. The Wednesday Chapel service is conducted by the pastor at which a choir under the direction of Mr. Hankins provides carefully prepared gospel singing. We trust that the influence of the steady Bible work will constantly raise the spiritual tides of life in the lives and future citizenship of these students.

Frank E. Eden.

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Arrivals

On October 25, per S.S. *Amarapoora,* Mrs L. W. Spring, Mrs. H. E. Dudley and son, Noel.

On November 1, per S.S. *Kandalla,* Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Smith and two children; Rev. and Mrs. R. Cummings.

Reports Requested.

Dear Friends,

You will have heard long since of the arrival of Dr. Robbins and party. I am writing this considerable time in advance for I anticipate there will be no opportunity to get a note into the *News* the latter part of the month.

We have been very much pleased with the way the station missionaries with all the other work they have on hand, have cooperated in rushing in the various papers which have been sent out to be filled in by them and returned to this office for Dr. Robbins' and Dr. Padelford's use. However, there are a few of you who have not as yet returned those papers and I wish you could make it now the first order of the day and hasten them to us here in the office.

Dr. Padelford arrives on the 12th November and we want to be able to put all the material into his hands. Also we wish to make up the books of materials for the stations according to the schedule for Dr. Robbins' study and we shall appreciate it to have these complete also.

Yours sincerely,
C. E. Chaney,
Field Secretary.

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FIELD SECRETARY'S ITINERARY

Cont. from June News Report

June 9—10 Pegu.
„ 11—18 Toungoo.
July 1— 5 Prome.
„ 11—14 Henzada.
Aug. 5 Henzada.
„ 6—10 Bassein.
„ 10—11 Maubin.
„ 12—14 Pyapon.
Sept. 8— 9 Mandalay.
„ 10 Sagaing.
„ 11 Mandalay.
„ 12—13 Maymyo.
„ 14 Mandalay.
„ 15 Meiktila.
„ 16—19 Thayetmyo.

Change of Meeting Dates for Joint Committees

In consultation with the sub-committee and also after consultation with the secretaries of the Karen Joint Committee and the Burman Joint Committee, it was arranged that the programs for the days on Dr. Robbins' itinerary scheduled for Dec. 23 and 24 should be moved forward to the 21st for the Karen Joint Committee and the 22nd for the Burman Joint Committee. It was further agreed that the programs for each day should be as follows:

8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Dr. Robbins should meet with a group of Nationals composed of the members of the Joint Committee and others to be invited. In the case of the Burman group it should consist of the members of the Managing Committee of the Burma Baptist Missionary Society and a few others. In the case of the Karens it should consist of some additional elders being invited, and a group of the Pwo Karens.

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This session should consist of the group from the morning, with some representative missionaries present.

4:30 p.m. A regular meeting of the members of the official Joint Committee.

The above will make a full day. It gives Dr. Robbins opportunity to meet with the Nationals alone. then that will be followed by a mixed group of Nationals and Missionaries, and after that the regularly elected Joint Committee will meet for a regular meeting.

C. E. Chaney,
Field Secretary.

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American Association Gatherings

Thursday, November 24, 5:30 p.m.—Thanksgiving service at the Methodist English Church, Rangoon.

Monday, January 2—All-day picnic at Cabin Island, Kokine Lakes.

Saturday, February 11, 3:30 p.m.—Abraham Lincoln Birthday celebration, Judson College Campus, Kokine.

Tuesday, July 4—Annual Meeting, Community Hall, Immanuel Baptist Church. Election of officers, dinner, and return engagement of minstrel troupe.

R. J. J.

Governmental Awards for Distinguished Service

Our mission has again been honoured by the King Emperor in the recent birthday awards of His Majesty's Government in Burma.

At the Durbar held in the Old Palace, at Mandalay, on October 10, 1932 to Dr. A. H. Henderson, M.D., of Taunggyi, was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal for "prolonged and successful service in the cause of education and public health in the Shan States," and to Mr. Walter Kaing, Inspector of Police, the Badge of a Member of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for distinguished services during the rebel uprising. On October 28, 1932 at the Durbar held in Convocation Hall, University Estate, Rangoon, U San Baw, President of the Karen National Society, Tharrawaddy, Prome district, received the title of O. B. E. for services rendered during the rebellion, and U Ba Htin, A. T. M., Deputy Commissioner, Burma Commission, received the title of K. S. M. for valuable services rendered during the Pegu earthquake in 1930 and in raising the standard of efficiency in the Criminal Courts of Burma. To Saw James Tapa, Higher Grade Pleader, Insein; to U Hmwe, Headman of Konminin village tract; to Saya Saw Po Kyaw, Karen pastor of the A. B. M. Church at Panhtete village was awarded the T. P. S. title for valuable public services rendered.

Dr. Henderson is one of a large group of our Burma missionaries who in the recent past have been honoured with a K. I. H. medal. The King agrees with the writer of Proverbs that his "throne is established by righteousness."

U San Baw, Mr. Walter Kaing, U Ba Htin and Saw James Tapa are honoured members of our Christian Constituency—the last two named being Judson College Alumni, of whom we are fittingly proud.

Two pastors of A. B. M. Karen Churches, Saya Chit of Yegyi village, Tharrawaddy, and Saya Dwe of Udo village, Tharrawaddy, received the T. P. S. title and Saya Kyin, Headmaster, A. B. M. School, Okkan, Saw Po Pe, Cultivator, Sinlalin Village Tract, Saw Htay Wah, Wadali Village Tract received guns for valuable services rendered during the rebellion.

The mission is honoured in the awards that have come to these fellow-workers. We believe that the praise which their conspicuous service brought them was not sought by them, but is merely a by-product of the noble trend of their lives. We are sure that there is a still larger group of faithful workers whose service though not conspicuous is nevertheless worthy of appreciation.

Julia St. John.

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Committees Appointed by the Conference Chairman

(The first named is chairman unless otherwise provided for by Conference ruling.)

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

J. T. Latta, Miss Effie Adams, H. E. Hinton, Miss Helen Hunt, H. I. Marshall, and the Conference Recording Secretary, Ex-officio and Chairman.

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H. E. Hinton, Mrs. C. L. Klein, J. R. Andrus, Miss Hazel Shank, L. W. Spring, Miss Mary Laughlin.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

Mrs. H. I. Marshall, Mrs. C. E. Chaney, S. V. Hollingworth.

F. E. Eden.

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Haka

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(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

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(CONTINUED)

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Rangoon Immanuel Church

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